

## **EXHIBIT A**

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

MARTÍN JONATHAN BATALLA VIDAL, )  
 ANTONIO ALARCÓN, ELIANA FERNANDEZ, )  
 CARLOS VARGAS, CAROLINA FUNG FENG, )  
 M.B.F., by her next friend LUCIA FELIZ, )  
 XIMENA ZAMORA, SONIA MOLINA )  
 and JOHANA LARIOS SAINZ, )

Case No. 1:16-cv-04756 (NGG)(VMS)

April 25, 2022

On behalf of themselves and all other  
similarly situated individuals,

and MAKE THE ROAD NEW YORK,

On behalf of itself, its members, and its clients,

*Plaintiffs,*

V.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS, in his official capacity as Secretary of Homeland Security, et al.,

*Defendants.*

**NOTICE OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR MODIFICATION**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that, upon the accompanying Memorandum of Law in Support of Plaintiffs’ Motion for Modification, dated April 25, 2022 and Declaration of Muneer Ahmad, dated April 25, 2022, with accompanying exhibits, Plaintiffs Martín Jonathan Batalla Vidal, Antonio Alarcón, Eliana Fernandez, Carlos Vargas, Carolina Fung Feng, M.B.F., Ximena Zamora, Sonia Molina, and Johana Larios Sainz, and Make the Road New York, on behalf of the members of the certified nationwide *Batalla Vidal* class (collectively “Plaintiffs”), move this Court, before

the Honorable Nicholas G. Garaufis, at the United States Courthouse, 225 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn New York, 11201, to modify, or in the alternative to clarify, this Court's prior order and issue the requested relief as appropriate.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that Plaintiffs' reply papers will be served by June 6, 2022.

Dated: April 25, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Muneer I. Ahmad

Aaron Bryce Lee, Law Student Intern  
Kevin Cheng, Law Student Intern  
Daniel Ocampo, Law Student Intern  
Aasha Shaik, Law Student Intern  
Medha Swaminathan, Law Student Intern  
Muneer I. Ahmad, Esq. (MA 9360)  
Marisol Orihuela, Esq. (*pro hac vice*)  
Michael J. Wishnie, Esq. (MW 1952)  
JEROME N. FRANK LEGAL SERVICES ORG.  
P.O. Box 209090  
New Haven, CT 06520  
(203) 432-4800

Karen C. Tumlin, Esq. (*pro hac vice*)  
Cooperating Attorney  
JEROME N. FRANK LEGAL SERVICES ORG.  
New Haven, CT 06520  
(323) 316-0944

Araceli Martínez-Olguín, Esq. (AM 2927)  
Jessica R. Hanson, Esq. (*pro hac vice*)  
NATIONAL IMMIGRATION LAW CENTER  
3450 Wilshire Blvd. #108-62  
Los Angeles, CA 90010  
(213) 639-3900

Paige Austin, Esq. (PA 9075)  
MAKE THE ROAD NEW YORK  
301 Grove Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11237  
(718) 418-7690

Jessica Young, Esq.  
MAKE THE ROAD NEW YORK  
9210 Roosevelt Avenue  
Jackson Heights, NY 11372  
(917) 821-0292

*Attorneys for Plaintiffs*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on April 25, 2022, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice of Plaintiffs' Motion for Modification, as well as Plaintiffs' Memorandum of Law in Support of Motion for Modification and Declaration of Muneer Ahmad were served electronically by e-mail to counsel for Defendants at the following email addresses:

BRIAN M. BOYNTON  
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General  
brian.boynton@usdoj.gov

BRAD P. ROSENBERG  
Assistant Branch Director  
brad.rosenberg@usdoj.gov

STEPHEN M. PEZZI  
Senior Trial Counsel  
stephen.pezzi@usdoj.gov

CORMAC A. EARLY  
Trial Attorney  
cormac.a.early@usdog.gov

United States Department of Justice  
Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch 1100 L Street NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
Phone: (202) 305-8576

JOSEPH A. MARUTOLLO  
Assistant U.S. Attorney  
joseph.marutollo@usdoj.gov

United States Attorney's Office Eastern District of New York  
271-A Cadman Plaza East, 7th Floor Brooklyn, NY 11201  
Phone: (718) 254-6288  
Fax: (718) 254-7489

/s/ Muneer I. Ahmad  
Muneer I. Ahmad, Esq. (MA 9360)  
JEROME N. FRANK LEGAL SERVICES ORG.  
muneer.ahmad@yale.edu  
P.O. Box 209090  
New Haven, CT 06520  
(203) 432-4800

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

MARTÍN JONATHAN BATALLA VIDAL,  
ANTONIO ALARCÓN, ELIANA FERNANDEZ,  
CARLOS VARGAS, CAROLINA FUNG FENG,  
M.B.F., by her next friend LUCIA FELIZ,  
XIMENA ZAMORA, SONIA MOLINA  
and JOHANA LARIOS SAINZ,

Case No. 1:16-cv-04756 (NGG)(VMS)

April 25, 2022

On behalf of themselves and all other  
similarly situated individuals,

and MAKE THE ROAD NEW YORK,

On behalf of itself, its members, and its  
clients,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS, in his official  
capacity as Secretary of Homeland Security,  
et al.,

*Defendants.*

PLAINTIFFS' MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN SUPPORT OF  
MOTION FOR MODIFICATION

ORAL ARGUMENT REQUESTED

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>I. INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>II. STATEMENT OF FACTS.....</b>	<b>2</b>
A. THIS COURT’S DECEMBER 2020 ORDER .....	2
B. THE <i>TEXAS II</i> ORDER .....	3
C. USCIS POLICY AND PROCEDURES .....	5
1. USCIS’s Ramp-Up Period for Processing First-Time DACA Applications .....	5
2. USCIS Treats Certain DACA Renewals as First-Time Requests Barred by <i>Texas II</i> ....	6
D. DACA-RELATED FEDERAL LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS.....	7
1. Congress Has Failed to Act.....	7
2. The Proposed DACA Rule’s Uncertain Timeline .....	7
E. CLASS MEMBERS STUCK IN LIMBO .....	8
<b>III. LEGAL STANDARD .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>IV. ARGUMENT.....</b>	<b>9</b>
A. THIS COURT HAS AUTHORITY TO MODIFY ITS REMEDIAL ORDER .....	9
B. THIS COURT SHOULD MODIFY ITS ORDER TO DIRECT DHS TO PROVIDE INTERIM RELIEF FOR FIRST-TIME APPLICANTS .....	12
1. The <i>Texas II</i> Order Changed the Factual Conditions for First-Time Applicants, Warranting Modification .....	12
2. Interim Relief Is Appropriate for First-Time Applicants, and this Court Has the Power to Direct Defendants to Issue Such Relief .....	14
3. Interim Relief Does Not Conflict with the <i>Texas II</i> Order .....	16
C. THE COURT SHOULD MODIFY ITS ORDER TO REQUIRE PROCESSING OF PENDING FIRST-TIME APPLICATIONS TO THE POINT OF ADJUDICATION .....	18
D. THIS COURT SHOULD ORDER DEFENDANTS TO ADJUDICATE EXTENDED RENEWAL APPLICATIONS.....	20
<b>V. CONCLUSION .....</b>	<b>21</b>

## TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

### Cases

<i>Bakery Machinery &amp; Fabrication v. Traditional Baking</i> , 570 F.3d 845 (7 <sup>th</sup> Cir. 2009) .....	10
<i>Berger v. Heckler</i> , 771 F.2d 1556 (2d Cir. 1985) .....	11
<i>Briscoe v. City of New Haven</i> , 2010 WL 2794231 (D. Conn. July 12, 2010) .....	20
<i>Bros. Inc. v. W.E. Grace Mfg. Co.</i> , 320 F.2d 594 (5th Cir. 1963) .....	10
<i>Brown v. Plata</i> , 563 U.S. 493 (2011) .....	9, 16
<i>Conn. Off. Prot. &amp; Advoc. for Persons with Disabilities v. Hartford Bd. Educ.</i> , 464 F.3d 229 (2d Cir. 2006) .....	9
<i>Exxon Corp. v. Texas Motor Exch. of Houston, Inc.</i> , 628 F.2d 500 (5th Cir. 1980) .....	10
<i>Freeman v. Pitts</i> , 503 U.S. 467 (1992) .....	11
<i>Garamendi v. Henin</i> , 683 F.3d 1069 (9th Cir. 2012) .....	20
<i>Hutto v. Finney</i> , 437 U.S. 678 (1978) .....	10
<i>In re Marc Rich &amp; Co. A.G.</i> , 739 F.2d 834 (2d Cir. 1984) .....	20
<i>Int’l Union, United Mine Workers of Am. v. Bagwell</i> , 512 U.S. 821 (1994) .....	9
<i>King-Seeley Thermos Co. v. Aladdin Indus., Inc.</i> , 418 F.2d 31 (2d Cir. 1969) .....	8, 11, 14
<i>Klapprott v. U.S.</i> , 335 U.S. 601 (1949) .....	10
<i>Matter of Emergency Beacon Corp.</i> , 666 F.2d 754 (2d Cir. 1981) .....	10
<i>Paddington Partners v. Bouchard</i> , 34 F.3d 1132 (2d Cir. 1994) .....	20
<i>Panama Processes, S.A. v. Cities Service Co.</i> , 789 F.2d 991 (2d Cir. 1986) .....	20
<i>Rose v. Maggio Corp.</i> , No. 13-CV-2649, 2013 WL 5774862 (E.D.N.Y. Oct. 24, 2013) .....	10
<i>Rufo v. Inmates of Suffolk Cnty. Jail</i> , 502 U.S. 367 (1992) .....	13, 14, 19
<i>Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall Rsrv. v. Leavitt</i> , 408 F. Supp. 2d 1073 (D. Or. 2005) ....	11
<i>Sizzler Fam. Steak Houses v. W. Sizzlin Steak House, Inc.</i> , 793 F.2d 1529 (11th Cir. 1986) .....	10
<i>Stevens v. Miller</i> , 676 F.3d 62 (2d Cir. 2012) .....	10
<i>Sys. Fed’n No. 91 v. Wright</i> , 364 U.S. 642 (1961) .....	11
<i>Texas v. United States</i> , 549 F. Supp. 3d 572 (S.D. Tex. 2021) .....	8, 16, 20
<i>Texas v. United States</i> , No. 1:18-cv-00068, 2021 WL 3022434 (S.D. Tex. July 16, 2021).. <i>passim</i>	

<i>United States v. Field</i> , 193 F.2d 92 (2d Cir. 1951).....	11
<i>United States v. New York Tel. Co.</i> , 434 U.S. 159 (1977).....	11
<i>United States v. Swift &amp; Co.</i> , 286 U.S. 106 (1932).....	8, 10
<i>United States v. United Shoe Machinery</i> , 391 U.S. 244 (1968).....	10

## **STATUTES**

8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5) .....	17
8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(27)(J) .....	14
8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(4) .....	14
8 U.S.C. § 1255.....	14

## **RULES**

Fed. R. Civ. P. 60(a) .....	9, 19, 20
Fed. R. Civ. P. 60(b)(6).....	8, 10, 11

## **REGULATIONS**

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, 86 Fed. Reg. 53736 (Sept. 28, 2021).....	7
Special Immigrant Juvenile Petitions, 87 Fed. Reg. 13066 (Mar. 8, 2022).....	15
8 C.F.R. § 245.1(e)(3).....	14
8 C.F.R. § 204.11 .....	14

## **OTHER AUTHORITIES**

Wright & Miller, 11A Fed. Prac. & Proc. Civ. § 2961 (3d ed. 2021) .....	10
<i>Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Frequently Asked Questions, Initials</i> , USCIS at No. 14 .....	3
Notice of Appeal, <i>Texas v. United States</i> , No. 21-40680, ECF 00516017367 (5th Cir. Sept. 16, 2021) .....	3
<i>Number of Form I 821D, Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Requests by Intake and Case Status, Current Fiscal Year by Quarter</i> , USCIS (Oct. 1, 2020-Sept. 30, 2021) .....	3
<i>Number of Form I 918, Petition for U Nonimmigrant Status - By Fiscal Year, Quarter, and Case Status Fiscal Years 2009-2021</i> , USCIS .....	15



Order Granting Summary Judgment, <i>Batalla Vidal v. Wolf</i> , No. 1:16-cv-04756, ECF 354 (E.D.N.Y. Dec. 4, 2020) .....	<i>passim</i>
Plaintiffs’ Motion for Summary Judgment, <i>Texas v. United States</i> , No. 18-cv-00068, ECF 486 (S.D. Tex. Oct. 9, 2020).....	8
Second Amended Complaint, <i>L.F.O.P. v. Mayorkas</i> , No. 4:21-cv-11556, ECF 26 (D. Mass. Jan. 4, 2022) .....	14
<i>Special Immigrant Juvenile Classification and Deferred Action</i> , USCIS (Mar. 7, 2022).....	15
Transcript of Pre-Motion Conference, <i>Batalla Vidal v. Mayorkas</i> , No. 16-cv-4756 (E.D.N.Y. Apr. 4, 2022) .....	7
<i>U Nonimmigrant Status Bona Fide Determination Process FAQs</i> , USCIS .....	15

## I. INTRODUCTION

Nearly ten years after the creation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, the United States retains its substantial obligation to America’s immigrant youth. In its December 2020 order, this Court reaffirmed those obligations, reopening DACA for the first time in three years and paving the way for tens of thousands of class members to seek work, pursue education, and remain in the country they have called home since childhood. In the following months, and in reliance on that order, class members like Plaintiff Johana Larios Sainz—a New Yorker who was raised and resides in Staten Island—compiled applications, paid filing fees, and allowed the government to capture their biometrics. Defendants implemented this Court’s order slowly. Just as the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) started issuing decisions more quickly, a Texas court in July 2021 vacated the DACA memorandum.

Misapprehending the interaction between the *Texas II* order and the order previously issued by this Court, the government suspended its processing of first-time DACA applications, cancelled scheduled biometrics appointments, and in some cases, withdrew grants of DACA that had already been issued. As a result, more than 80,000 first-time applicants (First-Time Applicants) hang in limbo. These are applicants like Ms. Larios Sainz, who submitted her application within days of this Court’s December 2020 order and has waited 16 months for a decision.

In fact, this Court ordered USCIS to “accept” new DACA applications, and the *Texas II* order forbids USCIS from “granting” DACA to new applicants. Neither Court has addressed, however, what is to happen to applications between the time that USCIS “accepts” them and the time that USCIS makes a final decision whether to “grant.” On this motion, Plaintiffs request that the Court modify its prior remedial order to direct Defendants to fashion interim relief for First-Time Applicants like Ms. Larios Sainz, and in addition, that Defendants process her application

and that of other First-Time Applicants up to the point of decision, when the *Texas II* order forbids Defendants from finally granting or denying the application.

Further, USCIS is wrongfully relying on the *Texas II* order to treat renewal applications as first-time applications where the applicant's DACA expired more than one year prior (Extended Renewal Applicants). First-Time Applicants and Extended Renewal Applicants (collectively, Pending Applicants) are languishing at USCIS, with foreseeable delays of many more months as the *Texas II* order proceeds through appeals to the Fifth Circuit and, likely, the Supreme Court.

This Court has the power to order Defendants to (1) craft interim relief, (2) process First-Time Applicants to the point of decision, and (3) adjudicate Extended Renewal Applicants without conflicting with the *Texas II* order. This Court's prior order, equitable authority, and ongoing jurisdiction over the nationwide *Batalla Vidal* class action all authorize it to afford this additional relief to the Pending Applicants.

## **II. STATEMENT OF FACTS**

### **A. THIS COURT'S DECEMBER 2020 ORDER**

On December 4, 2020, this Court ordered Defendants to accept first-time requests for DACA, renewal requests, and advance parole requests, based on the terms of the 2012 DACA program. ECF No. 354 at 4. The Court ordered Defendants to post notice that USCIS was "accepting first-time requests for consideration of deferred action under DACA," *id.*, but did not elaborate on the meaning of "accepting" and "consideration."

Following this Court's order, Defendants began accepting, processing, and adjudicating first-time DACA requests to final decisions. As of July 21, 2021, USCIS had received over 94,000

first-time DACA applications and had approved nearly 8,000.<sup>1</sup>

## B. THE *TEXAS II* ORDER

On July 16, 2021, a judge of the Southern District of Texas entered a nationwide injunction directing the government to halt adjudication of both first-time DACA applications and DACA renewals. *Texas v. United States*, No. 1:18-cv-00068, 2021 WL 3022434, at \*3-4 (S.D. Tex. July 16, 2021) (*Texas II*). The *Texas II* order permanently enjoins Defendants from “administering the DACA program and from implementing DACA without compliance with the [Administrative Procedure Act (APA)].” *Id.*, at \*4. However, the court partially stayed its order to permit the government to renew DACA for recipients who obtained DACA on or before the date of the order. *Id.* Moreover, with regard to first-time applications, the *Texas II* order specifies that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) “may continue to accept applications as it has been ordered to do by [this Court’s December 2020 order, ECF 354], but it may not *grant* these applications until a further order of this Court, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, or the United States Supreme Court.” *Texas II*, 2021 WL 3022434, at \*4 (emphasis added).<sup>2</sup>

Defendants went much further, however, and ceased processing biometrics or taking any other intermediate steps leading up to final adjudication—with the exception of cashing and keeping class members’ \$495 money orders.<sup>3</sup> Plaintiffs understand Defendants’ intermediate steps

---

<sup>1</sup> *Number of Form I 821D, Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Requests by Intake and Case Status, Current Fiscal Year by Quarter*, USCIS (Oct. 1, 2020–Sept. 30, 2021), [https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/data/DACA\\_performancedata\\_fy2021\\_qtr4.pdf](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/data/DACA_performancedata_fy2021_qtr4.pdf) [hereinafter USCIS Initial DACA Statistics, Oct. 2020–Sept. 2021].

<sup>2</sup> The government appealed the *Texas II* order to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. *See Texas v. United States*, No. 21-40680, ECF 00516017367 (5th Cir. Sept. 16, 2021) (Notice of Appeal). Briefing was completed on March 30, 2022, and oral argument has yet to be set as of April 25, 2022.

<sup>3</sup> *See, e.g., Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Frequently Asked Questions, Initials*, USCIS at No. 14 (last updated on Aug. 31, 2021), <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/consideration-of-deferred-action-for-childhood-arrivals-daca/frequently-asked-questions> (“I filed an initial DACA request and am scheduled for a biometrics appointment after July 16, 2021. What should I do?” [A:] “As a result of the [*Texas II*] order, all biometrics appointments for initial DACA requestors have been cancelled.”); *id.* at No. 15 (“Will USCIS issue me a refund if I have filed an initial DACA request?” [A:] “At this time, USCIS is not issuing refunds for pending initial DACA requests that remain on hold while the court order is in effect.”).

to include depositing the filing fee; sending notice of receipt of application to the applicant; scheduling biometrics; capturing biometrics; processing biometrics by pulling data from federal and state law enforcement and other databases; upon completion of biometrics, evaluating the applicant's criminal history, if any; assessing eligibility for DACA and work authorization according to the 2012 DACA Memo; assessing whether both DACA and work authorization are authorized for a given case; and engaging in an individualized and holistic review of the application. Finally, after these intermediate steps, the agency issues an adjudication of "grant" or "deny" for DACA and work authorization as an exercise of agency discretion. Other than collecting fees, USCIS has halted its processing of the pending first-time DACA applications of approximately 80,000 class members who filed between December 4, 2020 and July 16, 2021. No provision of the *Texas II* order prevents Defendants from taking these intermediate steps.

Several *Batalla Vidal* class members, despite each submitting applications for DACA soon after this Court's December 2020 order, experienced inconsistent treatment of those applications, based on whether USCIS had already captured their biometrics. Plaintiff Johana Larios Sainz, a New York resident, is among those pending First-Time Applicants awaiting further processing. She filed her first-time DACA application on December 9, 2020—just five days after this Court's prior order—and had biometrics scheduled for and taken on May 27, 2021, nearly six months later. Exh. A, DACA Application Documents, Johana Larios Sainz. Because of the delay in capturing her biometrics, her application remains pending. Plaintiff M.B.F., on the other hand, filed a first-time DACA application on December 14, 2020. Exh. B, DACA Documents, M.B.F. Because she had already completed biometrics by that time, in support of another application for status, USCIS notified her on December 17, 2020, that it would re-use her completed biometrics in considering her DACA application. *Id.* With her application materials in place, M.B.F. was granted DACA on

May 5, 2021, before the issuance of the Texas II order. *Id.* Had USCIS scheduled Ms. Larios Sainz and other class members for biometrics earlier, or completed them in a separate process, they might have received grants of DACA before the window elapsed.

## C. USCIS POLICY AND PROCEDURES

### 1. USCIS’s Ramp-Up Period for Processing First-Time DACA Applications

Public statistics regarding USCIS’s processing of first-time DACA applications between December 2020 and July 2021 show that USCIS had an approximately four-month-long “ramp-up period” before the agency began issuing a high volume of first-time DACA adjudications. As shown in the below table, in the first four months after this Court’s December 2020 order, over 50,000 first-time DACA applications were received, but only 1,663 were adjudicated (i.e., granted or denied). In the following four months, however, approximately 41,000 first-time applications were received and 7,483 were adjudicated. During the ramp-up period, USCIS deposited applicants’ filing fees, captured biometrics, processed biometrics, determined eligibility and exercised discretion in making final adjudications.

*Table: First-Time DACA Applications Received, Approved, Denied, and Pending<sup>4</sup>*

Time Period	Total First-Time DACA Requests Received	Approved	Denied	Remained Pending
Oct. 1, 2020 – Dec. 31, 2020	3,274	400	301	6,640
Jan. 1, 2021 – Mar. 31, 2021	49,892	763	169	55,564
Apr. 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021	33,255	4,605	511	83,653
July 1, 2021 – Sept. 30, 2021	8,063	2,226	141	89,336

These statistics further demonstrate that USCIS has the ability to meaningfully process, but not adjudicate to final decision, first-time DACA applications. Completing these ramp-up

<sup>4</sup> See *supra* note 1, USCIS Initial DACA Statistics, Oct. 2020-Sept. 2021.

procedures in advance could prepare the agency to swiftly adjudicate pending first-time applications should DACA be reopened for these applicants in the future.

## **2. USCIS Treats Certain DACA Renewals as First-Time Requests Barred by *Texas II***

USCIS has chosen to treat certain DACA renewal requests as first-time DACA requests, which the agency claims it is “prohibited from approving” while the *Texas II* “order remains in effect.”<sup>5</sup> Specifically, if class members submit a DACA renewal request more than one year after their current DACA expired, USCIS treats them like First-Time Applicants,<sup>6</sup> even though the *Texas II* order itself allows renewals by “DACA recipients who obtained that status on or before the date of this injunction and DACA renewal applications for these existing recipients (*regardless of when the renewal applications are submitted*)[.]” *Texas II*, 2021 WL 3022434, at \*2 (emphasis added). USCIS has not explained why it cannot treat these Extended Renewal Applicants’ applications as renewals and adjudicate them, as allowed by the *Texas II* order.

Prior to the *Texas II* order, USCIS had been accepting and adjudicating DACA requests from applicants whose DACA expired more than one year ago and from applicants that had their DACA previously terminated.<sup>7</sup> There is nothing in the *Texas II* order that directed USCIS to change this long-standing practice.

---

<sup>5</sup> *Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Frequently Asked Questions, Initials*, USCIS at No. 21 (last updated on Aug. 31, 2021), <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/consideration-of-deferred-action-for-childhood-arrivals-daca/frequently-asked-questions>.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> *Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals: Response to January 2018 Preliminary Injunction* (archived), USCIS (last updated on Aug. 24, 2021), <https://www.uscis.gov/archive/deferred-action-for-childhood-arrivals-response-to-january-2018-preliminary-injunction>.

## **D. DACA-RELATED FEDERAL LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS**

### **1. Congress Has Failed to Act**

For over twenty years, Congress has failed to pass any legislation aimed at providing a permanent solution and pathway to citizenship for immigrant youth, including the Dream Act and the Dream and Promise Act. In the past year, while Congress has made serious attempts to include immigration provisions that would provide permanent relief for *Batalla Vidal* class members through the budget reconciliation process, that process has stalled, and the inclusion of any immigration provisions in future legislation remains highly uncertain.<sup>8</sup> Advocates continue to urge Congress to pass a permanent solution, but class members cannot wait for congressional action that remains unlikely and has proven elusive.

### **2. The Proposed DACA Rule's Uncertain Timeline**

On September 28, 2021, DHS published a proposed rule that would codify the DACA program in federal regulations. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, 86 Fed. Reg. 53736 (Sept. 28, 2021). At the April 4, 2022 pre-motion conference before this Court, counsel for Defendants could not provide a timeline for the publishing of the final rule, only stating that DHS was still in the process of considering over 16,000 comments submitted through November 2021. Exh. C, Transcript of Pre-Motion Conference (Excerpt) at 18:12-19:8, *Batalla Vidal v. Mayorkas*, No. 16-cv-4756 (E.D.N.Y. Apr. 4, 2022).

Even if the final rule were published in the next several months and Defendants interpreted that rule as allowing them to further process and adjudicate DACA for First-Time Applicants, including granting DACA when appropriate, it would almost certainly be subject to legal

---

<sup>8</sup> See Emily Cochrane & Luke Broadwater, *Biden Concedes Social Policy Bill is Stalled as Immigration Plan Falters*, N.Y. TIMES (Dec. 16, 2021), <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/16/us/politics/biden-immigration-build-back-better.html>.



challenge. *See* Pls.’ Mot. Summ. J., *Texas v. United States*, No. 18-cv-00068, ECF 486 at 34-45 (S.D. Tex. Oct. 9, 2020) (arguing that DACA is substantively invalid because it lacks statutory authorization and violates the Constitution); *Texas v. United States*, 549 F. Supp. 3d 572, 603-21 (S.D. Tex. 2021) (concluding that DACA violates the substantive provisions of the APA).

### **E. CLASS MEMBERS STUCK IN LIMBO**

The *Texas II* order and Defendants’ erroneous interpretation of its interaction with this Court’s orders have significantly changed the factual conditions for First-Time Applicants who filed DACA applications after this Court’s December 2020 order but before the *Texas II* order, as well as for Extended Renewal Applicants whose DACA expired more than one year ago. To date, Defendants have not provided interim relief for class members like Plaintiff Johana Larios Sainz, who has waited 16 months for a decision on her application and must wait many more pending the *Texas II* appeals. Given the continuing uncertainty surrounding the DACA program, these class members are once again stuck in limbo. This harm is likely to continue for months or even years if this Court does not modify or clarify its order to direct Defendants to provide relief that is permitted by both this Court’s order and the *Texas II* order.

### **III. LEGAL STANDARD**

This Court has inherent power to modify an injunction it has entered. *See United States v. Swift & Co.*, 286 U.S. 106, 114 (1932) (“We are not doubtful of the power of a court of equity to modify an injunction in adaptation to changed conditions . . . .”). The Second Circuit has long recognized the broad power of an issuing court to modify its injunctions, including in “cases where a better appreciation of the facts in light of experience indicates that the decree is not properly adapted to accomplishing its purposes.” *King-Seeley Thermos Co. v. Aladdin Indus., Inc.*, 418 F.2d 31, 35 (2d Cir. 1969) (Friendly, J.). Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 60(b)(6) provides an additional basis for this power, allowing for modification of orders “for any other reason that justifies relief.”

This Court also has the inherent power to clarify its prior order, as it acknowledged when it “reserve[d] the right to impose further remedies if they become necessary” and “retain[ed] jurisdiction of the matter for purposes of construction, modification, and enforcement of this Order.” ECF 354 at 5-6; *see also Int’l Union, United Mine Workers of Am. v. Bagwell*, 512 U.S. 821, 831 (1994) (“Courts independently must be vested with power to impose . . . submission to their lawful mandates”) (internal quotation marks omitted); Fed. R. Civ. P. 60(a) (authorizing courts to clarify prior orders).

#### **IV. ARGUMENT**

##### **A. THIS COURT HAS AUTHORITY TO MODIFY ITS REMEDIAL ORDER**

In December 2020, this Court ordered DHS to “accept” new DACA applications, ECF 354 at 2, 4, and in July 2021 the *Texas II* court ordered DHS to cease “grant[ing]” new applications, *Texas II*, 2021 WL 3022434, at \*4. In the space between “accepting” and “granting,” this Court has well-established authority under its equitable powers and Rule 60 to modify or clarify its December 2020 order so as to vindicate the rights of Plaintiff Johana Larios Sainz and other First-Time Applicants, as well as to order Defendants to treat Extended Renewal Applicants’ applications as DACA renewals and adjudicate them. Moreover, with foresight, this Court expressly retained jurisdiction to adjust its remedial order, as Plaintiffs now request. *See* ECF 354 at 5 (“reserv[ing] the right to impose further remedies if they become necessary”).

District courts have broad equitable authority and significant discretion to fashion appropriate remedies that redress harms. *See Conn. Off. Prot. & Advoc. for Persons with Disabilities v. Hartford Bd. Educ.*, 464 F.3d 229, 245 (2d Cir. 2006). This authority is especially expansive when a court has already determined that rights have been violated. *Brown v. Plata*, 563 U.S. 493, 538 (2011) (“Courts have substantial flexibility when making these judgments. Once invoked, ‘the scope of a district court’s equitable powers . . . is broad, for breadth and flexibility

are inherent in equitable remedies.”) (quoting *Hutto v. Finney*, 437 U.S. 678, 687 (1978)).<sup>9</sup> Accordingly, a district court may modify a judgment or issue additional relief to protect or effectuate a prior judgment, particularly where—as here—the court has expressly retained jurisdiction “for purposes of construction, modification, and enforcement.” ECF 354 at 6.

This Court’s broad equitable powers are also reflected in Rule 60(b)(6), which allows for modification of orders for “any other reason that justifies relief.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 60(b)(6). This provision is “a grand reservoir of equitable power to do justice in a particular case.” *Rose v. Maggio Corp.*, No. 13-CV-2649 (NGG), 2013 WL 5774862, at \*2 (E.D.N.Y. Oct. 24, 2013) (quoting *Stevens v. Miller*, 676 F.3d 62, 67 (2d Cir. 2012)); see also *Klapprott v. U.S.*, 335 U.S. 601, 609 (1949) (noting the broader power available to federal courts to modify judgments under amended Rule 60(b)); *Matter of Emergency Beacon Corp.*, 666 F.2d 754, 760 (2d Cir. 1981) (explaining that a district court’s discretion is especially broad when relief is sought under subsection (b)(6)); *Bakery Mach. & Fabrication, Inc. v. Traditional Baking, Inc.*, 570 F.3d 845, 848 (7th Cir. 2009) (noting district courts’ great latitude in making Rule 60(b) ruling because that decision “is discretion piled on discretion”).<sup>10</sup>

Subsection (b)(6) reflects fundamental principles of equity that inform considerations of whether to modify prior orders. See, e.g., *Bros. Inc. v. W.E. Grace Mfg. Co.*, 320 F.2d 594, 608

---

<sup>9</sup> This is especially true when a court has ordered prospective relief. *Swift*, 286 U.S. at 114 (“A continuing decree of injunction directed to events to come is subject always to adaptation as events may shape the need.”); see also *Wright & Miller*, 11A Fed. Prac. & Proc. Civ. § 2961 (3d ed. 2021) (“Inasmuch as an injunctive decree is drafted in light of what the court believes will be the future course of events, a court must continually be willing to redraft the order at the request of the party who obtained equitable relief in order to ensure that the decree accomplishes its intended result.”).

<sup>10</sup> Although the text of Rule 60(b) refers to relief *from* a judgment, the Supreme Court made clear in *United States v. United Shoe Machinery* that district courts may modify an order at the request of plaintiffs. 391 U.S. 244, 251-52 (1968); see also *Exxon Corp. v. Texas Motor Exch. of Houston, Inc.*, 628 F.2d 500, 503 (5th Cir. 1980) (“*United Shoe Machinery* indicates that an injunction may be modified to impose more stringent requirements on the defendant when the original purposes of the injunction are not being fulfilled in any material respect.”) (quoting *Wright & Miller*, 11A Fed. Prac. & Proc. Civ. § 2961 (1973)); *Sizzler Fam. Steak Houses v. W. Sizzlin Steak House, Inc.*, 793 F.2d 1529, 1539 (11th Cir. 1986) (same).

(5th Cir. 1963) (the catch-all provision in subsection (b) permits modification of an order on “those grounds which equity has long recognized as a basis for relief”); *Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall Rsrv. v. Leavitt*, 408 F. Supp. 2d 1073, 1080 (D. Or. 2005) (explaining that a motion premised on Rule 60(b)(6) “untethers the discretion of judges from the constraints of common law remedies and grants broad remedial power” to modify a judgment).

Revision of an injunction is often justified by a change in “circumstances, whether of law or fact,” because “an injunction often requires continuing supervision by the issuing court and always a continuing willingness to apply its powers and processes on behalf of the party who obtained that equitable relief.” *Sys. Fed’n No. 91 v. Wright*, 364 U.S. 642, 647 (1961); *see also Freeman v. Pitts*, 503 U.S. 467, 487 (1992) (“The essence of a court’s equity power lies in its inherent capacity to adjust remedies in a feasible and practical way.”).<sup>11</sup> The *Texas II* order, and its interaction with this Court’s order, is one such changed circumstance.

As a court of equity and pursuant to Rule 60(b)(6), this Court is empowered to fashion particularized relief that responds to the specific needs of class members over which it retains jurisdiction. It should exercise that power to modify the December 2020 order and provide the additional relief Plaintiffs request.<sup>12</sup>

---

<sup>11</sup> The Second Circuit has held that modification may also be proper “where a better appreciation of the facts in light of experience indicates that the decree is not properly adapted to accomplishing its purposes.” *E.g., King-Seeley Thermos Co.*, 418 F.2d at 35; *Berger v. Heckler*, 771 F.2d 1556, 1569 (2d Cir. 1985) (“Ensuring compliance with a prior order is an equitable goal which a court is empowered to pursue even absent a finding of contempt.”).

<sup>12</sup> The All Writs Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1651, provides still further authority. The Supreme Court “has repeatedly recognized the power of a federal court to issue such commands under the All Writs Act as may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate and prevent the frustration of orders it has previously issued in its exercise of jurisdiction otherwise obtained . . . .” *United States v. New York Tel. Co.*, 434 U.S. 159, 172 (1977). Accordingly, district courts possess authority to craft remedies, where jurisdiction is proper. *E.g., United States v. Field*, 193 F.2d 92, 96 (2d Cir. 1951) (discussing the All Writs Act and noting that “it is fundamental that federal courts . . . have inherent power to do all things that are reasonably necessary for the administration of justice, within the scope of their jurisdiction”).

**B. THIS COURT SHOULD MODIFY ITS ORDER TO DIRECT DHS TO PROVIDE INTERIM RELIEF FOR FIRST-TIME APPLICANTS**

This Court's authority to adjust its prior order is well-established, and it should exercise that authority to modify its December 2020 order to direct Defendants to provide interim relief for First-Time Applicants. At a minimum, that interim relief should include an opportunity to work, as well as forbearance from deportation, and it should be issued on a case-by-case basis to pending DACA applicants able to make a *prima facie* showing of eligibility. Such relief should last only until USCIS makes a final decision on the underlying DACA application. Defendants have fashioned schemes for interim relief in other immigration programs beset by delays, and nothing in the *Texas II* order prevents DHS from implementing temporary, limited interim relief measures for qualifying First-Time Applicants.

Plaintiff Johana Larios Sainz filed her DACA application on December 9, 2020, and as of this filing has waited 16 months for a decision. *Supra* Section II.B. Because the *Texas II* order is subject to appeal in the Fifth Circuit, and likely thereafter in the Supreme Court, it will be many more months, at minimum, before her application is adjudicated. The pending DHS rulemaking could lead to further litigation and delay. *Supra* Section II.D.2. And there are nearly 80,000 other pending First-Time Applicants who, like Ms. Larios Sainz, are months or years from an adjudication of the application they submitted in reliance on this Court's prior order. To give full effect to this Court's December 2020 order in light of the changed factual conditions after the *Texas II* order, this Court should order the requested relief, which fits within this Court's broad discretion, comports with the particular necessities of this case, and does not violate *Texas II*.

**1. The *Texas II* Order Changed the Factual Conditions for First-Time Applicants, Warranting Modification**

The impacts of the *Texas II* order and Defendants' erroneous interpretation of its interaction with this Court's orders constitute "a significant change in . . . factual conditions" warranting

modification of this Court’s December 2020 order. *Rufo v. Inmates of Suffolk Cnty. Jail*, 502 U.S. 367, 384 (1992). When this Court issued its order reopening DACA in December 2020, the relief contemplated by the Court was to allow First-Time Applicants to apply for and receive grants of DACA if eligible. *E.g.*, ECF 354 at 2 (“In light of the vacatur, all parties agree that the DACA program is currently governed by its terms as they existed prior to the attempted rescission of September 2017.”). Class-members began submitting DACA applications to USCIS, and the government accepted, processed, and began adjudicating those applications, as this Court expected and intended. *Supra* Section II.A, C.1. The government’s compliance was slow at first—adjudicating only 763 applications in the first three months of 2021—but by early July, USCIS was adjudicating new DACA requests for thousands of applicants per month. *Supra* Section II.C.1.

The *Texas II* order in July 2021 enjoined the government from *granting* DACA to pending First-Time Applicants. *Texas II*, 2021 WL 3022434, at \*4. But Defendants went much further than required under the *Texas II* order, interpreting it to also bar them from scheduling and taking biometrics (even those class members who submitted applications in reliance on this Court’s order) and from taking all other intermediate steps leading up to final adjudication—with the exception of cashing class members’ checks. *Supra* Section II.B. In nearly all cases, the government cancelled scheduled biometrics appointments. *Id.*; *see also supra* note 3. As a result, first-time DACA applications were unnecessarily stalled long before the final adjudication stage.

This is a “significant change” in “factual conditions” from this Court’s December 2020 order, which required Defendants to accept first-time DACA requests for *consideration*—not simply take applicants’ filing fees and do nothing else. *Rufo*, 502 U.S. at 384. The parties now have “a better appreciation of the facts in light of experience,” which indicate that this Court’s December 2020 order is not properly adapted to accomplishing its purposes and should be

modified. *King-Seeley Thermos Co.*, 418 F.2d at 35. Indeed, modification is appropriate here as the Court's order has "prove[n] to be unworkable because of unforeseen obstacles" and because not modifying the order "would be detrimental to the public interest . . . ." *Rufo*, 502 U.S. at 384. Defendants' refusal to process up to the point of adjudication the 80,000 pending applications filed by members of the *Batalla Vidal* class represents a straightforward change in circumstances that disturbs the implementation of this Court's prior order. *Supra* Section II.E.

## **2. Interim Relief Is Appropriate for First-Time Applicants, and this Court Has the Power to Direct Defendants to Issue Such Relief**

This Court undoubtedly has the authority to order the government to provide interim relief. Indeed, this Court has enormous latitude to craft relief that meets the particularized needs of the parties to this complex litigation. *Supra* Section IV.A. Interim relief that provides protection from deportation and an opportunity to work, on a case-by-case basis, is a familiar practice for DHS. The government has fashioned interim relief for pending applicants stuck waiting long periods for adjudication of other immigration applications, in a manner similar to what Plaintiffs request here.

For instance, a recent USCIS policy provides that individuals with pending Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ)<sup>13</sup> applications can receive protection from deportation and eligibility for work authorization on a temporary basis, until a final decision has been made on their underlying application. SIJ applicants with approved special immigrant petitions have spent years in limbo due to annual employment-based visa limits. Unveiled earlier this year, the new policy, which came largely as a result of the class action suit *L.F.O.P. v. Mayorkas*, No. 4:21-cv-11556, ECF 26 (D. Mass. Jan. 4, 2022) (challenging USCIS refusal to approve or issue Employment Authorization Documents (EADs)), provides deferred action and related employment authorization on a case-

---

<sup>13</sup> The SIJ program protects individuals under 21 years of age who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned by one or both parents. SIJ recipients may apply for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident status. *See* 8 U.S.C. §§ 1101(a)(27)(J), 1153(b)(4), 1255; 8 C.F.R. §§ 245.1(e)(3), 204.11.



by-case basis for noncitizens with approved I-360 SIJ petitions who are as yet unable to apply for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.<sup>14</sup> Plaintiffs in *L.F.O.P.* relied on Defendants’ use of “other administrative alternatives to provide EAD eligibility to categories of noncitizens who are not listed in their EAD regulations, such as permitting the submission of an application for status to be held in abeyance pending a formal filing.” *Id.* at 13 ¶ 44.

The SIJ interim relief policy was neither specifically authorized by any statute or regulation, nor was it promulgated through a new rulemaking. Instead, DHS based these temporary protections on its inherent authority to grant deferred action and work authorization through “an individualized, case-by-case, discretionary determination.”<sup>15</sup> A similar approach could be used to provide interim relief for *Batalla Vidal* class members whose applications remain pending.

In a second recent example, in June 2021, USCIS began offering interim relief to noncitizens with pending, bona fide U nonimmigrant status petitions. The bona fide determination process “was created with the goal of conducting initial reviews of U nonimmigrant status petitions more efficiently and providing eligible victims of qualifying crimes with employment authorization and deferred action while they await a final adjudication of their petition for U nonimmigrant status under the annual statutory cap.”<sup>16</sup> Recipients receive four-year work authorization and deferred action while they wait for full adjudication. *Id.* When the program was implemented, there were about 270,000 individuals with pending U-visa applications.<sup>17</sup> Applicants

---

<sup>14</sup> *Special Immigrant Juvenile Classification and Deferred Action*, USCIS (Mar. 7, 2022), <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/policy-manual-updates/20220307-SIJAndDeferredAction.pdf>.

<sup>15</sup> *Special Immigrant Juvenile Petitions*, 87 Fed. Reg. 13066, 13095 (Mar. 8, 2022) (discussing why new policy did not need to be promulgated through rulemaking).

<sup>16</sup> *U Nonimmigrant Status Bona Fide Determination Process FAQs*, USCIS (last updated on Sept. 23, 2021), <https://www.uscis.gov/records/electronic-reading-room/u-nonimmigrant-status-bona-fide-determination-process-faqs>.

<sup>17</sup> *Number of Form I 918, Petition for U Nonimmigrant Status - By Fiscal Year, Quarter, and Case Status Fiscal Years 2009-2021*, USCIS, [https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/reports/I918u\\_visastatistics\\_fy2021\\_qtr2.pdf](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/reports/I918u_visastatistics_fy2021_qtr2.pdf).



had originally been able to get EADs and deferred action once they were added to the U-visa waitlist, but even the process for getting on the waitlist could take years. Like class members here, U-visa petitioners had little to no protection while their applications were pending until they were provided interim relief through the bona fide determination process.

Plaintiffs request an order directing Defendants to consider the 80,000 pending First-Time Applicants for some form of appropriate interim relief, as described further below. The interim relief would be temporary, lasting only until a final decision on the underlying DACA application; it would be narrow, limited to protection from removal and an opportunity to work; and it would be available only to those applicants who make a prima facie showing of eligibility for DACA, determined on a case-by-case basis.<sup>18</sup>

### **3. Interim Relief Does Not Conflict with the *Texas II* Order**

For two reasons, the interim relief program contemplated here is consistent with the orders of both this Court and the *Texas II* court. First, the interim relief requested here is not DACA. The *Texas II* order “prohibits the government from granting DACA status to First-Time Applicants.” *Texas II*, 2021 WL 3022434, at \*4. However, that court remanded consideration of this issue to the government and in doing so, took “no position on how DHS . . . should resolve” the various considerations as to DACA’s legality. *Texas v. United States*, 549 F. Supp. 3d 572, 623-24 (S.D. Tex. 2021). Under the Napolitano Memorandum and its implementing guidance, DACA recipients are protected from deportation, provided work permits, authorized to apply for a Social Security Number and driver’s license, and can obtain advance parole to travel abroad for humanitarian,

---

<sup>18</sup> The Court could direct Defendants to propose an interim relief remedy in the first instance. *See, e.g., Brown v. Plata*, 563 U.S. 493, 510 (2011) (after district court found legal violation, affirming further order that government defendants formulate remedial plan and submit it for court approval). It might also order the Defendants to implement a program for interim relief, and then refer the parties to judicial mediation to develop jointly the details of the program.

educational, and employment purposes, as permitted by statute, *see* 8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5).<sup>19</sup> DACA recipients can renew their status every two years, and the program confers no substantive right, immigration status, or pathway to citizenship.<sup>20</sup>

Additionally, the forms of interim relief proposed are more limited in substantive offerings to protection from removal and an opportunity to work, and are both temporary in nature and non-renewable. The interim relief requested does not entail the broader abilities enabled by DACA, as listed above. For example, unlike a DACA recipient, an applicant granted interim relief would *not* be eligible to apply for advance parole. And while DACA is awarded in two-year increments, any interim protection would conclude once applications meet final resolution—which could be triggered by a final rule, an appellate decision on the *Texas II* order, resumed government adjudication, or congressional action. If a court decision permanently ends the DACA program, the government could immediately terminate the work authorization for an applicant with interim relief, even while allowing work authorization for DACA recipients themselves to continue until their individual expiration dates during a wind-down period.

Thus, interim relief ordered by this Court would be consistent with both this Court’s prior order and the *Texas II* order. Because of the tangible benefits to Plaintiff Johana Larios Sainz and the 80,000 similarly situated members of the *Batalla Vidal* class, this Court should exercise its equitable authority and modify its prior order to direct Defendants to issue interim relief on a case-by-case basis to eligible First-Time Applicants, including temporary protection from deportation and an opportunity to work.

---

<sup>19</sup> *Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion with Respect to Individuals Who Came to the United States as Children*, DHS (June 5, 2012), <https://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/s1-exercising-prosecutorial-discretion-individuals-who-came-to-us-as-children.pdf>.

<sup>20</sup> *Id.* at 3.

**C. THE COURT SHOULD MODIFY ITS ORDER TO REQUIRE PROCESSING OF PENDING FIRST-TIME APPLICATIONS TO THE POINT OF ADJUDICATION**

This Court ordered Defendants to “accept” first-time applications, and the *Texas II* order prohibits only the “granting” of DACA. Nevertheless, Defendants ceased processing of requests for DACA (Form I-821D) submitted by First-Time Applicants, as well as their attendant requests for EADs (Form 1-765). *Supra* Section II.B. The *Texas II* order did not require this course of action. Given the changed factual circumstances in this case, *see supra* Section IV.B.1, this Court should modify its December 2020 order and require Defendants to resume processing pending first-time DACA applications and requests for EADs up until the point of granting DACA.

As discussed above, USCIS engaged in a roughly four-month ramp-up period of processing first-time applications after this Court’s December 2020 order. *See supra* Section II.C.1. Resuming all processing steps up to final adjudication for First-Time Applicants would provide meaningful relief because months of processing would already be completed should DACA be opened again in the future, whether based on a final rule, new legislation, or an appellate ruling.

The tangible difference that additional processing can make is evident by comparing the application experiences of Plaintiff Larios Sainz and Plaintiff M.B.F. Plaintiff Johana Larios Sainz filed her first-time DACA application on December 9, 2020, and had biometrics scheduled for and taken on May 27, 2021. *Supra* Section II.B. Ms. Larios Sainz filed her application within five days of this Court’s December 2020 order, but still had to wait nearly six months for the government to schedule a biometrics appointment and advance her application. By the time the *Texas II* order was issued in July 2021, USCIS had still not finished processing or adjudicating her application; it has now been 16 months since submission. *Id.* In contrast, Plaintiff M.B.F. had already had her biometrics captured and processed as part of a different application for immigration relief when she applied for DACA on December 14, 2020, after Ms. Larios Sainz. As a result, she did not have

to go through those steps again, and she received an approval for first-time DACA on May 5, 2021, before the government even sought to capture Ms. Larios Sainz's biometrics. *Id.*

Accordingly, Plaintiffs request that the Court modify its order to require Defendants to accept and process up to, but not including, final adjudication of first-time DACA requests so long as the *Texas II* order remains in effect. This "proposed modification is suitably tailored to the changed circumstance." *Rufo*, 502 U.S. at 383.

In the alternative, this Court is also empowered by Rule 60(a) to clarify its December 2020 order to correct an unintended ambiguity that has led Defendants to completely halt all processing of pending applications, including the running of biometrics, which is a required early step in the adjudication process, *supra* Section II.B. This Court should also correct Defendants' refusal to adjudicate applications from Extended Renewal Applicants because they fail to process them as renewals, *supra* Section II.C.2; *infra* Section IV.D. This Court knows best its own intent in having ordered USCIS to "accept" new applications, but its prior order appears to have been premised on an expectation that USCIS compliance was not complete upon the moment it accepted a new application. *See* ECF 354 at 4 (requiring Defendants to post notice that it was "accepting first-time requests for *consideration* of deferred action under DACA . . . based on the terms of the DACA program prior to September 5, 2017") (emphasis added); *id.* at 5 (ordering status report by Defendants showing "[t]he number of first-time DACA applications received, *adjudicated, approved, denied, and rejected*" since holding Chad Wolf was not lawfully serving as Acting Secretary of Homeland Security) (emphasis added). To the extent that the Court intended DHS

also to *process* applications that it accepted, at least to the point of grant or denial, *see Texas II*, 2021 WL 3022434, at \*4, then clarification would be appropriate under Rule 60(a).<sup>21</sup>

#### **D. THIS COURT SHOULD ORDER DEFENDANTS TO ADJUDICATE EXTENDED RENEWAL APPLICATIONS**

Defendants erroneously treat Extended Renewal Applicants—DACA renewal applicants whose previous grants of DACA expired more than a year prior to the renewal request—as First-Time Applicants and therefore have taken the position that the *Texas II* order bars it from adjudicating these applications *as renewals*. Defendants’ problem is of their own making, as they have chosen to treat Extended Renewal Applicants as First-Time Applicants with no explanation. The *Texas II* order allows Defendants to grant DACA renewal applicants “regardless of when the renewal applications are submitted[.]” *Texas II*, 2021 WL 3022434, at \*2. Further, Extended Renewal Applicants have previously held DACA and therefore have the same reliance interests on DACA that the *Texas II* court took into account when staying its own vacatur and injunction with respect to DACA renewals. *See, e.g., Texas v. United States*, 549 F. Supp. 3d 572, 624 (S.D. Tex. 2021) (“[T]hese rulings do not resolve the issue of the hundreds of thousands of DACA recipients and others who have relied upon this program for almost a decade. That reliance has not diminished and may, in fact, have increased over time.”). Plaintiffs therefore request that the Court order Defendants to treat Extended Renewal Applicants like the renewal applicants they are and adjudicate them to final decision as allowed by the *Texas II* order.

---

<sup>21</sup> Rule 60(a) provides for the correction of mistakes “arising from oversight or omission.” These are not limited to “errors arising from transcription or copying.” *In re Marc Rich & Co. A.G.*, 739 F.2d 834, 836 (2d Cir. 1984); *id.* at 837 (district courts may clarify an ambiguity, especially one that conforms a prior order to “the contemporaneous intent of the court”); *see also Panama Processes, S.A. v. Cities Service Co.*, 789 F.2d 991, 992-93 (2d Cir. 1986) (same); *Garamendi v. Henin*, 683 F.3d 1069, 1079 (9th Cir. 2012) (“Rule 60(a) allows for clarification and explanation, consistent with the intent of the original judgment, even in the absence of ambiguity, if necessary for enforcement.”); *Briscoe v. City of New Haven*, 2010 WL 2794231, at \*4 (D. Conn. July 12, 2010); *Paddington Partners v. Bouchard*, 34 F.3d 1132, 1140 (2d Cir. 1994).

## V. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court grant Plaintiffs' motion to modify, or in the alternative, to clarify, the Court's December 2020 Order.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Muneer I. Ahmad

Kevin Cheng, Law Student Intern  
Aaron Bryce Lee, Law Student Intern  
Daniel Ocampo, Law Student Intern  
Aasha Shaik, Law Student Intern  
Medha Swaminathan, Law Student Intern  
Muneer I. Ahmad, Esq. (MA 9360)  
Marisol Orihuela, Esq. (*pro hac vice*)  
Michael J. Wishnie, Esq. (MW 1952)  
JEROME N. FRANK LEGAL SERVICES ORG.  
P.O. Box 209090  
New Haven, CT 06520  
(203) 432-4800

Karen C. Tumlin, Esq. (*pro hac vice*)  
Cooperating Attorney  
JEROME N. FRANK LEGAL SERVICES ORG.  
New Haven, CT 06520  
(323) 316-0944

Araceli Martínez-Olguín, Esq. (AM 2927)  
Jessica R. Hanson, Esq. (*pro hac vice*)  
NATIONAL IMMIGRATION LAW CENTER  
3450 Wilshire Blvd. #108-62  
Los Angeles, CA 90010  
(213) 639-3900

Paige Austin, Esq. (PA 9075)  
MAKE THE ROAD NEW YORK  
301 Grove Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11237  
(718) 418-7690

Jessica Young, Esq.  
MAKE THE ROAD NEW YORK  
9210 Roosevelt Avenue  
Jackson Heights, NY 11372  
(917) 821-0292

*Attorneys for Plaintiffs*

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

MARTÍN JONATHAN BATALLA VIDAL,  
ANTONIO ALARCÓN, ELIANA FERNANDEZ,  
CARLOS VARGAS, CAROLINA FUNG FENG,  
M.B.F., by her next friend LUCIA FELIZ,  
XIMENA ZAMORA, SONIA MOLINA  
and JOHANA LARIOS SAINZ,

Case No. 1:16-cv-04756 (NGG)(VMS)

April 25, 2022

On behalf of themselves and all other  
similarly situated individuals,

and MAKE THE ROAD NEW YORK,

On behalf of itself, its members, and its  
clients,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS, in his official  
capacity as Secretary of Homeland Security,  
et al.,

*Defendants.*

**DECLARATION OF MUNEEER AHMAD**

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C § 1746, I hereby declare as follows:

1. My name is Muneer Ahmad. I am the Deputy Dean for Experiential Education and Sol Goldman Clinical Professor of Law at Yale Law School. I co-teach the Worker & Immigrant Rights Advocacy Clinic (WIRAC), a part of the Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization (LSO).
2. Attached hereto as Exhibit A is a true and correct copy of a receipt confirming the submission of Ms. Johana Larios Sainz’s first-time DACA application, and a notice scheduling biometrics in support of this application, entitled “DACA Application Documents, Johana Larios Sainz.”

3. Attached hereto as Exhibit B is a true and correct copy of a receipt confirming the submission of M.B.F.'s first-time DACA application, a notice from USCIS of intent to re-use previously-captured biometrics in support of this application, and notice of grant of DACA, entitled "DACA Documents, M.B.F."
4. Attached hereto as Exhibit C is a true and correct excerpted copy of the transcript from the April 4, 2022 pre-motion conference before this Court, entitled "Transcript of Pre-Motion Conference (Excerpt)."

Executed on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of April 2022, New Haven, Connecticut.

/s/ Muneer I. Ahmad





Department of Homeland Security  
 U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

**Form I-797C, Notice of Action**

**THIS NOTICE DOES NOT GRANT ANY IMMIGRATION STATUS OR BENEFIT.**

NOTICE TYPE Receipt		NOTICE DATE December 23, 2020
CASE TYPE I-821D, Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals		USCIS ALIEN NUMBER [REDACTED]
RECEIPT NUMBER IOE0910274006	RECEIVED DATE December 09, 2020	PAGE 1 of 1
		DATE OF BIRTH [REDACTED] 1994

JOHANAL LARIOS SAINZ

2 00000212



NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS

We have received your form and are currently processing the above case. If this notice contains a priority date, this priority does not reflect earlier retained priority dates. We will notify you separately about any other case you filed.

If we determine you must submit biometrics, we will mail you a biometrics appointment notice with the time and place of your appointment.

If you have questions or need to update your personal information listed above, please visit the USCIS Contact Center webpage at [uscis.gov/contactcenter](https://uscis.gov/contactcenter) to connect with a live USCIS representative in English or Spanish.

**USCIS Office Address:**  
 USCIS  
 California Service Center  
 P.O. Box 30111  
 Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0111

**USCIS Contact Center Number:**  
 (800)375-5283





Department of Homeland Security  
 U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

**Form I-797C, Notice of Action**

**THIS NOTICE DOES NOT GRANT ANY IMMIGRATION STATUS OR BENEFIT.**

NOTICE TYPE Receipt		NOTICE DATE December 23, 2020
CASE TYPE I-765, Application for Employment Authorization		USCIS ALIEN NUMBER [REDACTED]
RECEIPT NUMBER IOE0910274007	RECEIVED DATE December 09, 2020	PAGE 1 of 1
		DATE OF BIRTH [REDACTED] 1994

JOHANA I. LARIOS SAINZ

2 00000213



**PAYMENT INFORMATION:**

Application/Petition Fee: \$495.00  
 Biometrics Fee: \$0.00  
 Total Amount Received: \$495.00  
 Total Balance Due: \$0.00

**NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS**

**Eligibility Category: C33**

We have received your form and are currently processing the above case. If this notice contains a priority date, this priority does not reflect earlier retained priority dates. We will notify you separately about any other case you filed.

If we determine you must submit biometrics, we will mail you a biometrics appointment notice with the time and place of your appointment.

If you have questions or need to update your personal information listed above, please visit the USCIS Contact Center webpage at [uscis.gov/contactcenter](https://uscis.gov/contactcenter) to connect with a live USCIS representative in English or Spanish.

This notice, by itself, does not grant any immigration status or benefit, nor is it evidence that this case is still pending. However, this Notice of Action automatically extends the validity of your Employment Authorization Document (EAD) for up to 180 days from the expiration date printed on the front of the card and can be used for employment eligibility verification (Form I-9) purposes if:

- You have timely filed to renew your current Form I-766, Employment Authorization Document (EAD);
- Your EAD renewal is under a category that is eligible for an automatic 180-day extension (see [uscis.gov/i-765](https://uscis.gov/i-765) for a list of categories);
- The category on your current EAD matches the "Class Requested" listed on this notice (if you are a TPS beneficiary or applicant, your EAD and this notice must contain either the A12 or C19 category, but they do not need to match each other); and
- You do not receive your renewal EAD before your current EAD expires.

If we deny your renewal application, the automatic extension immediately ends and cannot be used for Form I-9 purposes. If your EAD is a combo card, the automatic extension does not apply to advance parole.

**USCIS Office Address:**  
 USCIS  
 California Service Center  
 P.O. Box 30111  
 Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0111

**USCIS Contact Center Number:**  
 (800)375-5283





13433

**THIS NOTICE DOES NOT GRANT ANY IMMIGRATION STATUS OR BENEFIT.**

<b>ASC Appointment Notice</b>		<b>CASE TYPE</b> I821D; I765	<b>NOTICE DATE</b> 05/01/2021
<b>APPLICATION/PETITION/REQUEST NUMBER</b> IOE0910274006; IOE0910274007		<b>USCIS A#</b> [REDACTED]	<b>CODE</b> 3
<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b> 028720338452	<b>TCR</b>	<b>SERVICE CENTER</b> CSC	<b>PAGE</b> 1 of 2

JOHANA ITZEL LARIOS SAINZ  
c/o CARLOS A VARGAS  
UNKNOWN  
[REDACTED]



PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE NOTICE CAREFULLY. To process your application, petition, or request, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) must collect your biometrics. Please appear at the below Application Support Center (ASC) at the date and time specified.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR AS SCHEDULED, YOUR APPOINTMENT MAY NOT BE RESCHEDULED, TO REQUEST THAT USCIS RESCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT, SEE THE INSTRUCTIONS AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS NOTICE. IF USCIS DOES NOT RESCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT, YOUR APPLICATION, PETITION, OR REQUEST WILL BE CONSIDERED ABANDONED AND DENIED.

**APPLICATION SUPPORT CENTER**  
USCIS BROOKLYN  
1260-1278 60th Street  
Brooklyn NY 11219

**DATE AND TIME OF APPOINTMENT**  
05/27/2021  
03:00PM

**WHEN YOU APPEAR AT THE ASC FOR BIOMETRICS SUBMISSION, YOU MUST BRING:**

1. **THIS APPOINTMENT NOTICE.** If you received multiple ASC notices, bring all notices to your first appointment, and
2. **PHOTO IDENTIFICATION.** Your biometrics will not be collected without identification. You must bring a valid government-issued photo identification document. If the name on your identification is different than the name on your ASC notice, bring supporting documentation. If you filed an Application for Naturalization (Form N-400) or Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card (Form I-90), you must bring your Permanent Resident Card (also known as a Green Card).

Only those necessary to assist you with transportation or completion of the biometrics worksheet should accompany you to your ASC appointment. If you have open wounds, bandages, or casts when you appear for biometrics submission, USCIS may reschedule your appointment if we determine your injuries may interfere with biometrics submission. Please do not visit a USCIS office if you are sick or feel any symptoms of being sick. Follow the instructions on this notice to reschedule your appointment.

You may bring cell phones or electronic devices, but they must be turned off during biometrics collection. No one may photograph or record at an ASC.

For more information regarding your ASC appointment, visit <https://www.uscis.gov/forms/forms-information/preparing-your-biometric-services-appointment>. If you have questions regarding this notice, please call the USCIS Contact Center at 1-800-375-5283 (TTY 800-767-1833).

**NOTE:** If an ASC closes due to inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances, USCIS will automatically reschedule your appointment for the next available date and time. For the latest information on the status of an office, visit <https://www.uscis.gov/about-us/uscis-office-closings>. Please check this page on the day of your appointment. If USCIS reschedules your appointment for any reason, you will receive a new ASC appointment notice.

To ensure you receive all correspondence from USCIS, you must update your address if you move. For instructions, visit <https://www.uscis.gov/addresschange>.

USCIS may use your biometrics to check the criminal history records of the FBI for identity verification, to determine eligibility, to create immigration documents (e.g., Green Card, Employment Authorization Document, etc.), or any purpose authorized by the Immigration and Nationality Act. You may obtain a copy of your own FBI record using the procedures outlined within Title 28 C.F.R., Section 16.32. For information, please visit <https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks>. For Privacy Act information, please visit <https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/compact-council/privacy-act-statement>.

**REQUESTS TO RESCHEDULE/SPECIAL HANDLING**

If you are unable to attend your scheduled ASC appointment, you may request that USCIS reschedule your appointment by calling the USCIS Contact Center at 1-800-375-5283 (TTY 800-767-1833). Your request to reschedule must: 1) be made before the date and time of the original appointment and 2) establish good cause for rescheduling. If you fail to make a request before your scheduled appointment or fail to establish good cause, USCIS may not reschedule your ASC appointment. If USCIS does not reschedule your appointment, your application, petition, or request will be considered abandoned and denied.

If you have a serious ongoing medical condition and you cannot leave your home/hospital, you may request a mobile biometrics/homebound appointment by following the instructions on the back in the Notice for People with Disabilities or by visiting [uscis.gov/accommodations](https://uscis.gov/accommodations).

**APPLICATION NUMBER**  
I821D- IOE0910274006



**APPLICATION NUMBER 2**  
I765- IOE0910274007



If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact the USCIS Contact Center at 1-800-375-5283.



**THIS NOTICE DOES NOT GRANT ANY IMMIGRATION STATUS OR BENEFIT.**

NOTICE TYPE Receipt		NOTICE DATE December 28, 2020
CASE TYPE I-821D, Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals		USCIS ALIEN NUMBER A [REDACTED]
RECEIPT NUMBER IOE0910300807	RECEIVED DATE December 14, 2020	PAGE 1 of 1
		DATE OF BIRTH [REDACTED] 2002

M [REDACTED] S. B [REDACTED] F [REDACTED]  
C/O LINDA KENEPASKE LAW OFFICES OF LINDA KENEPAS  
17 BATTERY PLACE STE 1226  
NEW YORK, NY 10004



NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS

We have received your form and are currently processing the above case. If this notice contains a priority date, this priority does not reflect earlier retained priority dates. We will notify you separately about any other case you filed.

If we determine you must submit biometrics, we will mail you a biometrics appointment notice with the time and place of your appointment.

If you have questions or need to update your personal information listed above, please visit the USCIS Contact Center webpage at [uscis.gov/contactcenter](https://uscis.gov/contactcenter) to connect with a live USCIS representative in English or Spanish.

**USCIS Office Address:**

USCIS  
California Service Center  
P.O. Box 30111  
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0111

**USCIS Contact Center Number:**

(800)375-5283  
ATTORNEY COPY





**THIS NOTICE DOES NOT GRANT ANY IMMIGRATION STATUS OR BENEFIT.**

NOTICE TYPE Receipt		NOTICE DATE December 28, 2020
CASE TYPE I-765, Application for Employment Authorization		USCIS ALIEN NUMBER A [REDACTED]
RECEIPT NUMBER IOE0910300808	RECEIVED DATE December 14, 2020	PAGE 1 of 1
		DATE OF BIRTH [REDACTED] 2002

M [REDACTED] E [REDACTED] F [REDACTED]  
C/O LINDA KENEPASKE LAW OFFICES OF LINDA KENEPAS  
17 BATTERY PLACE STE 1226  
NEW YORK, NY 10004



NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS

**PAYMENT INFORMATION:**

Application/Petition Fee: \$495.00  
Biometrics Fee: \$0.00  
Total Amount Received: \$495.00  
Total Balance Due: \$0.00

**Eligibility Category: C33**

We have received your form and are currently processing the above case. If this notice contains a priority date, this priority does not reflect earlier retained priority dates. We will notify you separately about any other case you filed.

If we determine you must submit biometrics, we will mail you a biometrics appointment notice with the time and place of your appointment.

If you have questions or need to update your personal information listed above, please visit the USCIS Contact Center webpage at [uscis.gov/contactcenter](https://uscis.gov/contactcenter) to connect with a live USCIS representative in English or Spanish.

This notice, by itself, does not grant any immigration status or benefit, nor is it evidence that this case is still pending. However, this Notice of Action automatically extends the validity of your Employment Authorization Document (EAD) for up to 180 days from the expiration date printed on the front of the card and can be used for employment eligibility verification (Form I-9) purposes **if**:

- You have timely filed to renew your current Form I-766, Employment Authorization Document (EAD);
- Your EAD renewal is under a category that is eligible for an automatic 180-day extension (see [uscis.gov/i-765](https://uscis.gov/i-765) for a list of categories);
- The category on your current EAD matches the "Class Requested" listed on this notice (if you are a TPS beneficiary or applicant, your EAD and this notice must contain either the A12 or C19 category, but they do not need to match each other); **and**
- You do not receive your renewal EAD before your current EAD expires.

If we deny your renewal application, the automatic extension immediately ends and cannot be used for Form I-9 purposes. If your EAD is a combo card, the automatic extension does not apply to advance parole.

**USCIS Office Address:**

USCIS  
California Service Center  
P.O. Box 30111  
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0111

**USCIS Contact Center Number:**

(800)375-5283  
ATTORNEY COPY



**THIS NOTICE DOES NOT GRANT ANY IMMIGRATION STATUS OR BENEFIT.**

<b>Notice to Applicants</b>		<b>CASE TYPE</b> I821D; I765	<b>NOTICE DATE</b> 12/17/2020
<b>APPLICATION/PETITION/REQUEST NUMBER</b> IOE0910300807; IOE0910300808		<b>USCIS A#</b> A [REDACTED]	<b>CODE</b> N/A
<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b> 009329196775	<b>TCR</b>	<b>SERVICE CENTER</b> CSC	<b>PAGE</b> 1 of 1

M [REDACTED] E [REDACTED] F [REDACTED]  
c/o LINDA KENEPASKE  
LAW OFFICES OF LINDA KENEPASKE  
17 BATTERY PLACE STE 1226  
NEW YORK NY 10004

U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has received your form and is currently processing your application, petition, or request. This notice informs you that USCIS is able to reuse your previously captured fingerprints and other biometrics. USCIS will run the same security checks and use your biometric data as in the past, however, it is not necessary for you to appear at a USCIS Application Support Center (ASC) for a biometrics appointment. The biometrics fee will not be refunded.

USCIS is continuing to process your application, petition, or request. USCIS will contact you in writing if any additional information is necessary to resolve your case.

This notice is not an approval of your pending application, petition, or request.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this notice or the status of your case, please contact the NCSC toll free at 1-800-375-5283. If you are hearing impaired, please call the NCSC TDD at 1-800-767-1833.

APPLICATION NUMBER  
I821D - IOE0910300807



APPLICATION NUMBER 2  
I765 - IOE0910300808



If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact the USCIS Contact Center at 1-800-375-5283.

**WARNING:** Due to limited seating availability in our lobby area, only persons who are necessary to assist with transportation or completing the biometrics worksheet should accompany you. If you have open wounds or bandages/casts when you appear, the USCIS may reschedule your appointment if it is determined your injuries will interfere with taking your biometrics.



**THIS NOTICE DOES NOT GRANT ANY IMMIGRATION STATUS OR BENEFIT.**

Receipt Number IOE0910300807	USCIS Account Number 009329196775	Case Type 1821D - CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS
Received Date 12/14/2020	Priority Date 12/14/2020	Requestor A219 015 920 M [REDACTED] I B [REDACTED] F [REDACTED]
Notice Date 05/06/2021	Page 1 of 1	

B [REDACTED] F [REDACTED] M [REDACTED]  
c/o LUCIA GUILLERMINA FELIZ PENA  
[REDACTED]

**Notice Type:** Approval Notice  
Valid from: 05/05/2021 to 05/04/2023

We have mailed an official notice about this case (and any relevant documentation) according to the mailing preferences you chose on Form G-28, Notice of Entry of Appearance as Attorney or Accredited Representative. This is a courtesy copy, not the official notice.

**What the Official Notice Said**

**Notice of Deferred Action:**

This notice is to inform you regarding U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services's (USCIS) decision on your Form I-821D, Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

USCIS, in the exercise of its prosecutorial discretion, has decided to defer action in your case. *Deferred action is an exercise of prosecutorial discretion by USCIS not to pursue the removal of an individual from the United States for a specific period. Deferred action does not confer or alter any immigration status.*

Unless terminated, this decision to defer removal action will remain in effect for the duration of the validity period noted above.

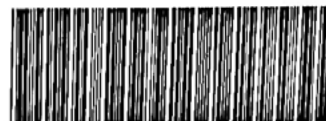
This notice does not constitute employment authorization, nor may it be used in place of an Employment Authorization Document. The 90-day period for reviewing Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, filed together with Form I-821D begins as of the date of this approval notice. If Form I-765 is granted, you will receive your Employment Authorization Document separately by mail. Subsequent criminal activity after your case has been deferred is likely to result in termination of your deferred action. This notice does not provide permission to travel outside of the United States.

You are required to notify USCIS if you change your address. You may use the Alien's Change of Address Card, Form AR-11, to report a new address. That form may be found at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov). There is no fee for this change of address form.

**NOTICE:** USCIS and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) reserve the right to verify the information submitted in this request and/or supporting documentation to ensure conformity with applicable laws, rules, regulations, and other authorities. Methods used for verifying information may include, but are not limited to, the review of public information and records, contact by correspondence, the internet, or telephone, and site inspections of businesses and residences. Information obtained during the course of the verification will be used to determine whether termination of deferred action and/or removal proceedings are appropriate if, for example, the requestor committed fraud or misrepresentation in his or her request for consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals, or engaged in subsequent criminal activity following the submission of his or her request. Individuals for whom removal action is deferred under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals may, in the sole discretion of USCIS and DHS, be provided an opportunity to address derogatory information before deferred action is terminated and/or removal proceedings are initiated.

Please see the additional information on the back. You will be notified separately about any other cases you filed.

California Service Center  
U. S. CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION SVC  
P.O. Box 30111  
Laguna Niguel CA 92607-0111



USCIS Contact Center: [www.uscis.gov/contactcenter](http://www.uscis.gov/contactcenter)

## EXHIBIT C

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

- - - - - X  
BATALLA VIDAL, et al., : 16-CV-4756(NGG)  
Plaintiffs, :  
 :  
 :  
-against- : United States Courthouse  
 : Brooklyn, New York  
 :  
 :  
KIRSTJEN M. NIELSEN, et al., : Monday, April 4, 2022  
 : 3:15 p.m.  
Defendants. :  
 :  
- - - - - X

TRANSCRIPT OF CIVIL CAUSE FOR STATUS CONFERENCE  
BEFORE THE HONORABLE NICHOLAS G. GARAUFIS  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

A P P E A R A N C E S:

For the Plaintiffs: JEROME N. FRANK  
LEGAL SERVICES ORGANIZATION  
YALE LAW SCHOOL  
For the Plaintiffs -  
Antonio Alarcon, et al.  
P.O. Box 209090  
New Haven, Connecticut 06520  
BY: MEDHA SWAMINATHAN, Law Student  
MUNEER AHMAD, ESQ.  
DANIEL OCAMPO  
AASHA SHAIK  
KEVIN CHENG  
AARON BRYCE LEE  
MICHAEL WISHNIE, ESQ.

MAKE THE ROAD NEW YORK  
For the Plaintiffs -  
Antonio Alarcon, et al.  
46 Waller Avenue  
White Plains, New York 10605  
BY: JESSICA YOUNG, ESQ.

A P P E A R A N C E S: (Continued.)

For the Plaintiffs: NATIONAL IMMIGRATION LAW CENTER  
Attorneys for the Plaintiff -  
Antonio Alarcon, et al.  
3450 Wilshire Boulevard  
#108-62  
Los Angeles, California 90010  
BY: JESSICA HANSON, ESQ.

NYS OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
DIVISION OF APPEALS AND OPINIONS  
28 Liberty Street  
Suite 23rd Floor  
New York, New York 10005  
BY: ANISHA S. DASGUPTA, ESQ.

For the Defendants: UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL PROGRAMS BRANCH  
For the Defendants -  
Kirstjen M. Nielsen  
1100 L Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005  
BY: STEPHEN M. PEZZI, ESQ.  
CORMAC A. EARLY, ESQ.  
  
BRAD ROSENBERG, ESQ.  
Associate Director, Federal Programs

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK  
For the Defendants -  
Kirstjen M. Nielsen, et al.  
271 Cadman Plaza East  
Brooklyn, New York 11201  
BY: JOSEPH MARUTOLLO, ESQ.

Court Reporter: Anthony D. Frisolone, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRI  
Official Court Reporter  
Telephone: (718) 613-2487  
Facsimile: (718) 613-2694  
E-mail: Anthony\_Frisolone@nyed.uscourts.gov

Proceedings recorded by computerized stenography. Transcript  
produced by Computer-aided Transcription.

Status Conference

18

1 Texas also referenced. The Government's efforts to fortify  
2 DACA and to address some of the infirmities that he perceived  
3 and he expressed his understanding that they would be doing  
4 so promptly.

5 As we described in our letter, there was a notice  
6 of proposed rule making. The states provided a comment  
7 letter is, and so, that is another development that is  
8 ongoing. Your Honor referred earlier to developments that  
9 are ongoing that may resolve this and we believe the rule  
10 making to be another source of potential relief for the  
11 plaintiffs here.

12 THE COURT: I see. Well, before I held this job I  
13 was Chief Counsel of the Federal Aviation Administration in  
14 Washington and I'm very familiar with how rule makings tend  
15 to meander through the system and have to be carefully  
16 considered and revised and proposed and received, comment,  
17 and then issued. So I don't know where the Department of  
18 Homeland Security is on rule making but this provides me with  
19 a momentary opportunity to find out where the rule making is  
20 that that has now been referenced.

21 MR. PEZZI: Sure, your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Mr. Pezzi.

23 MR. PEZZI: Ms. Dasgupta is correct. There was a  
24 notice of proposed rule making issued in September of 2021.  
25 The comment period closed, I believe, in November of 2021.

Status Conference

19

1 It's a lengthy notice of proposed rule making, I'm sure many  
2 of the folks on the other side have read it. There were  
3 about 16,000 or so comments that were submitted as I  
4 understand it and the agency is going through those comments  
5 as it is required to do under the APA. And beyond that, I am  
6 unable, of course, to prejudge the final outcome of that rule  
7 making but it is under active consideration with the  
8 Department of Homeland Security.

9 THE COURT: Thank you. And if a rule is issued,  
10 then it would be subject to litigation as well. So, you  
11 know, where in a -- this issue is definitely of the future of  
12 DACA is definitely in flux. I understand that, you all  
13 understand that, and the possibility of there being a  
14 legislative solution which is where we started on this, where  
15 I begged Congress to find a legislative solution, seems to  
16 have been unrequited, if you will, and I don't know what will  
17 happen. But I'm glad that you mentioned the rule making  
18 which is, you know, if a rule is issued, I'm sure we'll all  
19 hear about it.

20 I'm going to ask the Government to let me know if  
21 there's a new rule and then maybe this is all, you know, this  
22 whole all this litigation can be mooted by a rule. There's a  
23 new rule but then there will be more litigation I assume at  
24 some point.

25 MS. DASGUPTA: Precisely, your Honor. That was our